recommendations of SIU should not be applied routinely for a creative organization like NBB and recommended filling up of vacant posts immediately;

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon so far in respect of home management unit of NBB;

(c) whether Government are aware of wide spaced discontentment amongst staff for not filling up of vacant posts for last five years; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard so far with results thereof and the steps to be taken to boost the morale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Committee constituted by the Government of India to study the working of National Bal Bhavan (NBB), in its report of December, 2002, has, *inter alia*, recommended that recommendations of organizations like Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) should not routinely be applied to the NBB in view of its creative nature and that steps should be taken to fill up activity related vacancies that are essential for the functioning of NBB programmes.

(b) The activities of the home management unit of National Bal Bhavan are presently being looked after by the Assistant Hostel Warden in addition to her own duties.

(c) and (d) Promotion to posts including filling up the vacant posts against the direct recruitment is done as per the provisions in the Recruitment Rules. This is an on-going process and as and when vacancy arises, action is taken to fill up the posts on priority basis. In view of this, the question of discontentment on account of non filling of posts, does not arise.

Percentage of literacy of males and females

3814. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literacy of males and females in different States and Union Territories during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the average percentage of literacy at the national level for males and females during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to mitigate this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Literacy rates are complied and released by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India decennially and not on year to year basis. A statement indicating the literacy rates of males and females at the national level as well as in States and Union Territories, as per Census 2001, is enclosed in Statement (*See* below). The male-female literacy gap has reduced for 24.84% in 1991 to 21.59% in 2001.

(c) The universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010. Two programmes for education of girls at elementary level-the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) have also been launched in the educationally backward blocks of the States to reach out to out-of-school girls, working girls, overage girls who have not completed elementary education and girls from marginalized social groups.

The National literacy Mission (NLM) is entrusted with the target of achieving a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, organizing projects for eradication of residual illiteracy in districts which have substantial number of illiterates, setting up of continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life-long learning to be neoliterates and imparting vocational training to neo-literates through Jan Shikshan Sansthans. Further, 150 districts which have the lowest literacy rates in the country have been identified for taking up a special literacy drive. Under the adult literacy programmes, 60% of the beneficiaries are women.

Statement

Percentage of literacy of males and females in the country

Sl.No.	State/UT	Literacy Rate		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	70.32	50.43	60.47
2	Arunachal Pradesh	63.83	43.53	54.34
3	Assam	71.28	54.61	63.25
4	Bihar	59.68	33.12	47.00
5	Chhattisgarh	77.38	51.58	64.66
6	Goa	88.42	75.37	82.01
7	Gujarat	7.66	57.80	69.14
8	Haryana	78.49	55.73	67.91
9	Himachal Pradesh	85.35	67.42	76.48
10	Jammu and Kashmir	66.60	43.00	55.52
11	Jharkhand	67.30	38.87	53.56
12	Karnataka	76.10	56.87	66.64
13	Kerala	94.24	87.72	90.86
14	Madhya Pradesh	76.06	50.29	63.74
15	Maharashtra	85.97	67.03	76.88
16	Manipur	80.33	60.53	70.53
17	Meghalaya	65.43	59.61	62.56
18	Mizoram	90.72	86.75	88.80
19	Nagaland	71.16	61.46	66.59
20	Orissa	75.35	50.51	63.08
21	Punjab	75.23	63.36	69.65
22	Rajasthan	75.70	43.85	60.41
23	Sikkim	76.04	60.40	68.81
24	Tamil Nadu	82.42	64.43	73.45
25	Tripura	81.02	64.91	73.19
26	Uttaranchal	83.28	59.63	71.62
27	Uttar Pradesh	68.82	42.22	56.27
28	West Bengal	77.02	59.61	68.64
29	A & N Islands	86.33	75.24	81.30
30	Chandigarh	86.14	76.47	81.94
31	D & N Haveli	71.18	40.23	57.63
32	Daman & Diu	86.76	65.61	78.18
33	Delhi	87.33	74.71	81.67
34	Lakshadweep	92.53	80.47	86.66
35	Pondicherry	88.62	73.90	81.24
	ALL INDIA	75.26	53.67	64.84